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SALT TWO
SESSION I
A-106

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
U.S. SALT DELEGATION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DATE: 18 December 1972
TIME: 12:15 - 12:30 p.m.
PLACE: Soviet Mission, Geneva

SUBJECT: SALT TWO-I

PARTICIPANTS: US

USSR

Ronald H. Stivers

A. A. Obukhov
M. P. Shelepin

In the post-plenary session, the above named advisors discussed submarine restrictions and the Soviet reaction to the US statement on procedures for dismantling, destruction, and replacement.

Submarine Restrictions

The conversation began with a discussion of Ambassador Smith's plenary statement. Both Obukhov and Shelepin said that they had especially noted Ambassador Smith's reference to the recent flights of a Soviet SLBM to a range of about 7,500 km. They said with some embarrassment that they had learned of the first test firing of a Soviet SLBM to an extended range from the press here, but they had not been informed that there had been more than one such firing. In this context, they asked what impact the test firings would have on the US position on FBS. I said that the firings reinforced the US view that restrictions on submarine patrol areas and forward-basing are not practical, but would seem to call for some change in the Soviet position. At this point, Obukhov said that neither Shelepin nor he were military men, but it seemed from their point of view that the whole question of forward-based systems and Soviet demands for compensation could not be settled by the delegations, but would require intervention at the highest political levels.

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Dismantling, Destruction, and Replacement Procedures

The conversation then turned to Mr. Nitze's statement on procedures for dismantling, destruction, and replacement made at the mini-plenary on 15 December. I asked whether the Soviet delegation had made any initial observations. Obukhov and Shelepin professed that there had not been much reaction within their delegation, mainly because the matter was being reviewed in Moscow. They also added that other people will presumably be addressing the issue when the Standing Consultative Commission first meets early next year.

PS *prob*
SALDEL:RHStivers:mat

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